

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238094

TOSEC 338

FOLLOWING REPEAT RABAT 5271 ACTION INFO ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE
ADDIS ABABA SECSTATE DATED 10/30/74.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5271

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF MO

SUBJ: ARAB SUMMIT: CLOSING SESSION

1. SUMMARY. ARAB SUMMIT OFFICIALLY ENDED 2230 LOCAL
OCT 29 WITH ROUND OF LARGELY CEREMONIAL SPEECHES CALLING
FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY AND PRAISING PLO. HASSAN'S EFFORTS
ALSO WIDELY LAUDED. ASAD STRESSED SYRIA'S DESIRE FOR PEACE,
AND ARAFAT OFFERED PALESTINIAN EXPERTS FOR USE IN MOROCCAN
RECOVERY OF SAHARA. MEETING ENDED IN SHOW OF RECONCILIATION,
WITH HASSAN LEAVING HALL WITH HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT ON EITHER
SIDE. END SUMMARY.

2. CLOSING SESSION OF SEVENTH ARAB SUMMIT, DELAYED
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REPEATEDLY DURING DAY, BEGAN ABOUT 2120 OCT 29. FOUR

LEADER HAD ALREADY LEFT RABAT: BOUMEDIENE, BOURGUIBA, QABUS, AND FRANGIE.

3. FOUR ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE AND ARAFAT GAVE LARGELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE, CEREMONIAL SPEECHES. FAYSAL LED OFF WITH BRIEF THANKS TO HASSAN FOR SUMMIT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE FOR FUTURE ARAB SUCCESS. NEXT, NUMEIRI MADE LONGER PRESENTATION ON SAME THEMES, ADDING LAVISH PRAISE FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

4. ASAD THEN SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH EMPHASIS ON RAMADAN WAR. HE AT SAME TIME STRESSED SYRIAN DESIRE FOR PEACE, ALTHOUGH INDICATING SYRIA WOULD NOT SHRINK FROM FURTHER STRUGGLE IF NECESSARY. ASAD COMPLIMENTED MOROCCAN FORCES WHO HAD FOUGHT IN SYRIA AND CHARACTERIZED HASSAN AS A "TRUE ARAB AND TRUE MUSLIM."

5. SADAT PRAISED WISDOM OF HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT IN REACHING RECONCILIATION. HE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED MOROCCAN MILITARY ROLE IN EGYPT, AND NOTED KING HASSAN'S WISDOM, FRATERNITY, PATIENCE, AND SKILL IN BRINGING VARYING POINTS OF VIEW TOGETHER AT CONFERENCE.

6. ARAFAT, IN KEY SPEECH OF SESSION, SAW SUMMIT AS THE "CONFERENCE OF PALESTINE." OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME, ARAFAT SAID ARABS HAD OVERCOME DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, TO CONSTERNATION OF PESSIMISTS. ISRAEL, HE WENT ON, WAS PREPARING FOR FIFTH WAR, BUT ARABS CAPABLE OF MEETING CHALLENGE. NEW HORIZONS HAD OPENED UP FOR THE ARAB WORLD IN STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM, ZIONISM, AND IMPERIALISM, DUE TO STRONG SUPPORT OF ISLAMIC, NON-ALIGNED, AFRICAN AND SOCIALIST FRIENDS. NEW FRIENDS ALSO APPEARING IN WESTERN CAMP. IN THANKING KING HASSAN FOR SUMMIT ARRANGEMENTS, ARAFAT OFFERED TO LEND PALESTINIAN EXPERTS IN GUERRILLA WARFARE TO HELP RECOVER OCCUPIED SAHARA. ARAFAT CALLED FOR CONTINUING STRUGGLE UNTIL ARABS COULD MEET IN JERUSALEM. (KING HUSSEIN WAS TELEVISED SMILINGLY APPLAUDING ARAFAT'S REMARKS.)

7. KING HASSAN THEN CONCLUDED SESSION BY NOTING THAT
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SUCCESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED DESPITE FAILURE PREDICTED BY MANY WHO FELT ARABS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REMAIN UNITED EXCEPT BRIEFLY. DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN PLO AND JORDANIANS, HE ADDED, HAD LED TO ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY BY LEADERS AND SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE, GOOD PREPARATION FOR "WHEN TIME COMES FOR THEM TO LIVE AS NEIGHBORS WITH INDIVIDUAL ENTITIES." SESSION ENDED

AT 2230 WITH HASSAN LEAVING HALL WITH HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT ON
EITHER SIDE.

8. COMMENT: SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF PLO-JORDANIAN ACCORD
WERE NOT DEALT WITH AT CLOSING SESSION. THESE WILL PRESUMABLY
EMERGE IN MORE DETAIL IN COURSE OF JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
SCHEDULED BY ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD AND HASSAN AT 0930
OCT 30, WHICH IS TO BE FOLLOWED BY SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCE
BY ARAFAT.
NEUMANN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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